

CHRONOLOGY OF THE ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF
THE CHURCH OF THE RED ROCKS

(Compiled by Dr. Robert Matlock)

- 1960 Feb. 9 - Meeting called 'for the purpose of organizing a new church.'
16 - Meeting to 'make plans to raise money for church building.
Voted to adopt a name, THE CHURCH OF THE RED ROCKS.
Mar. 15 - First meeting with Dr. Perry D. Avery, Asst. Supt. Congrega-
tional Church, Southern California and the Southwest.
May 31 - Voted to apply 'for membership in Arizona Association of
Churches and Ministers of the Congregational Church in fellow-
ship with the United Church of Christ.'
Apr. 3 - First sermon preached in name of the Church of the Red Rocks at
the Chanticleer Restaurant
- First Communion Service, with Rev. Robert Jackson as Minister
Oct. 23 - Acceptance 'into the Congregational Church' announced
Nov. 27 - At a Recognition Service, names of 42 persons joining the new
church made up the first Membership Roll. Dr. Perry Avery pre-
sent, Rev. Robert Jackson, the organizing pastor.
Dec. - Rev. Paul E. Babbitt chosen to become first full-time Pastor,
duties to be assumed Feb. 15, 1961
- 1961 Jan. - First Annual Meeting. . . Womens' Fellowship also organized in 1961
- Dr. Avery, in company with building Site Selection Committee, on
visiting present site in Fairlane Subdivision, spread his arms
and said, "This is perfect. We must buy it."
Sept. 19 - Church of the Red Rocks incorporated
Oct. - A successful all-member canvas conducted, followed by ...
- 1962 Feb. ... a building fund campaign secured assurance of loan of \$50,000
from Board for Homeland Ministries - UCC, plus an additional
grant of \$5,000 at end of construction
Oct. 3 - Official ground breaking could not be held until this date
- 1963 Dec. 4 - Last of building footings poured
- 1964 June 7 - Service of Entry into unfinished building held the small congre-
gation of about 100...total indebtedness, \$18,000
June 23 - First funeral service in new church, for Ada Wright who had given
much to the new undertaking.
- Anonymous gift of \$10,000 to building fund
- 1966 Oct. - Following resignation of the Rev. Richard Kline, 2nd Pastor, Rev.
Robert Jackson again became Interim Minister
- 1967 June 1 - Rev. Wm. Keeney called as 4th Pastor of new church
- Choir formed, Faith Fuller became first Choir Director; a used
electric organ purchased with financial help of Al Regans and
Edna Wilson
- 1968 - Joe Barclay, a professional singer and choir director from Cali-
fornia, became Minister of Music
- Treasurer Mike Collins announced "Our expenses exceed our income."
- Womens' Fellowship provided financial and other assistance to help
purchase office equipment, choir robes, and provide for church
school needs
- 1969 Mar. - Spurred by anonymous matching gift of 'up to \$10,000' a fund drive
led by Arnold Lambert reached \$22,000
- Trustees began paying a salary to Joe Barclay, Minister of Music

- 1970 May - Another anonymous gift, \$4,000, given to purchase pews -- subsequently, a pew fund was established
- Aug. - Dr. Perry D. Avery, just retired from a 4-year pastorate in Turkey, with effective help from Conference Minister, Henry Culbertson, was persuaded to become the 'interim minister for an extended period of time' (period lasted for 2½ years)
- Couples' Club, later to be called the Friendship Club, was formed by Al and Marilou Cushman
- 1971 Jan. - With but meager response to a letter to raise funds to purchase 'padded, folding chairs for the sanctuary,' a motion was passed to conduct a fund drive for pews. To the amazement of some new members, the drive was oversubscribed, providing enough funds to install wall-to-wall carpeting also.
- Dec. - New pews and carpeting installed in time for Christmas. A warm, well-deserved vote of thanks given to member Howard Bean
- 1971 - Canyon Echo, a vital communication channel for the church, initiated
- Following resignation of Dorothy Hunt, Janet Beving hired as church secretary; husband Dick, a retired minister, agreed to become custodian. The Beving Team became nearly indispensable for the efficient operation of the church.
- Dec. - The Chrismon Tree, with its symbolic decorations in gold and white introduced by Velma (Mrs. Paul) Chambers; it, along with the colorful panels created by Betty and John Nissen to decorate sanctuary windows, has become a Christmas tradition.
- 1972 - Following resignation of Ardella Simonsgaard as Organist, Gladys Reed was installed. Gladys and Wendell had been members of the choir for some time.
- Apr. 30 - A long-delayed Service of Dedication of the building was held; Mike Collins, Honorary Chairman. Participation by Rev. Henry Culbertson, Rev. Paul Babbitt, and Dr. Perry D. Avery.
- 1973 Jan. - Letter of resignation by Dr. Avery, effective May 31 was read and accepted regretfully.
- May - Following local disapproval of some of its 'Social Actions,' Council voted to 'disassociate the church from some activities of the World Council of Churches.
- June - Rev. George C. Vance, retired UCC Pastor of Casas Adobes Church, Tucson, engaged to serve as Interim Minister, a job he performed admirably until October
- July 29 - Pastoral Selection Committee, after several weeks of deliberations, presented the name of the Rev. Alice B. Snow as Minister to our congregation; after a 'lively discussion' she was accepted her ministry to begin on Sunday, October 21
- 1974 Jan. - Title of Minister Emeritus, Church of the Red Rocks, bestowed on Dr. Perry D. Avery
- Led by Preston Smith, a volunteer crew produced stained glass chandeliers for the sanctuary and stairway lights; later, Ben Porzak crafted equally impressive ones for the narthex.
- The Moeller pipe organ (followed by the chimes in 1978) was presented to the church by Ethel Low in memory of her husband Dan Low.
- 1975 - With membership over 300, several additions and physical items were added, including land for parking space.

- 1977 - Aided by a substantial gift from the Tomkins' several decorative trees were planted around the foundation; embankment plantings rearranged. An updated 5-year History was published.
- 1978 - Addition of the Tomkins' Room and Pastor's Study completed. Church School redesigned. Included in the improvements was 'bringing order out-of-the-chaos in the basement storage area.'
- 1979 - With church membership grown to more than 500 under Alice Snow's leadership, she was given the Antoinette Brown Award for 'being one of the two most outstanding women Ministers' of the UCC.
- 1980 Completion of the Garden Terrace, an attractive and useful addition to the physical plant
- Nov. - Dr. Bernard Drew began a series of seminars on the subject of "Dynamic Maturity"
- 20th Anniversary Celebration, with Rev. Paul Babbitt, Drs. Perry Avery and Ted Hastings participating. Charles Jorgensen's poem, "The Cross of Christ" distributed to the congregation. (The poem refers to the natural cross, found by the Etters, which adorns the chancel.)
- 1981 - Parking area enlargement and lighting plus landscaping and addition of a stairway down from the Garden Terrace completed
- Church Endowment Fund planned
- Establishment of a columbarium approved
- By year's end, membership passed 600
- 1982 - Improvements completed during the year include: organization of a "Sound Team" to handle sanctuary sound system and recordings, re-doing the Sunday Bulletin cover, the columbarium, and construction of the natural rock sign for the Bowstring entrance.
- 1983 Oct. -Historian Bob Matlock prepared a booklet to honor the Rev. Alice B. Snow for her 10 years of service to our church. A unique quilt, designed and produced by members of the Womens' Fellowship to represent the various phases in her life, was presented to Alice at a memorable ceremony.
- Due to increased Sunday service attendance, the Council voted to begin two morning services; sanctuary seating and parking areas were relieved but all members were not pleased.
- 1984 Jan. - Alice Snow read her letter of resignation, effective April 1, at a Sunday service, causing great dismay even though everyone knew it to be inevitable one day. With a cottage to become available for her at Pilgrim Place, Claremont, California, our congregation made a substantial gift to Pilgrim Place to use in making that facility more suitable for her occupancy.
- Alice's farewell sermon entitled "Bouquets, Bonfires and Balloons" ...the bonfire was for the burning of the paid-out mortgage; the bouquets and balloons were symbolic of the mutual love and admiration between the congregation and Alice.
- May - The Rev. Robert Midgley, just retired from a ministry in Hawaii, became interim pastor. The "Midgley Bridge" of Bob and Lois served our congregation admirably for a year.
- 25th Anniversary Celebration Committee appointed to plan events for the following year

- 1985 Jan. - Due to further differences on the part of some members regarding actions of the National and World Councils of Churches, the Council passed a measure to keep our members informed of National and World Council activities.
- Our well-liked and devoted Choir Director, Heath Seapy resigned; fortunately, another choir member, Charles Bowers agreed to take over.
- Feb. - Worship service honored the "Red Rock Originals," those who had met in February, 1960 and decided to 'build a church.' Eight 'Originals' were in attendance.
- The Bevings announced plans to retire to California, later changed their minds and continued their well-received dual-role in our church.
- Apr. 13 - Rev. Midgley commemorated the first service held in 1960 by the organizing group.
- May - Guest speaker, Conference Minister Dr. Ted Hastings called into focus the decision of the early group to affiliate with the United Church of Christ.
- June 30 - Pastoral Search Committee secures Dr. George Ault as minister. One of Dr. Ault's charges "to guide us into a new building program."
- Dec. - Evening program at Poco Diablo recalled some of the events of November, 1960 when the "Original 42" were received into the Church of the Red Rocks and the church into the U.C.C.
- 1986 - New Building Committee, Dick Beving Chairman and Building Finance Committee, Win Sumner and Bob Hitz, Co-Chairmen, named
- \$350,000 Fund Drive goes "over-the-top"
- 1987 Feb. 22 - Groundbreaking ceremony for new addition
- Dick and Janet Beving resign (again) but return in August to help complete painting of exterior and interior of church
- June - Arrival of first Associate Pastor, Rev. Jolie A. Hughes
- Aug. 18 - Death of Rev. Paul Babbitt
- Sept. 20 - Dedication of Perry D. Avery Hall, Alice Snow Tower and Narthex, Walter Schmidt Administrative Area, and Hazel Playter Chancel/Choir Area

Note: Dr. Robert Matlock served Church of the Red Rocks as Moderator, 1972-73; and as Historian 1977-78, and 1982-83

A large portion of this time-line excerpted from The First Quarter Century: The Church of the Red Rocks, by Charles Jorgensen.